

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the original Abstract with the new Abstract below:

An input/output interface receives an access request from a requestor. A processor associated with the input/output interface applies a filter operation to select a subset of rules from a master set of rules maintained within an authorization database. Rules can be selected in this manner using filter operations so that all rules in the rule set need not be processed. A rule may include a disregard instruction. The processor further performs at least one rule operation based on the subset of rules to produce an access control decision in the memory system until either a rule operation including a disregard instruction is performed to limit performance of rule operations in the selected set of rules or until all rule operations in the selected set of rules that are applicable to the access control decision are performed.